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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 21 January 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our previous letters concerning Israeli aggression and practices in southern Lebanon, I have the honour to inform you that Israel has continued its attacks on villagers and their property in the south of the country. In recent weeks, it has continued bombing Tebnin, Haris, Hadatha and Aita El-Jabal, which it has besieged, as well as Rashaf, situated outside the border area. On Monday, 20 January 1992, it also bombed Kleile. The results of these acts of aggression are as follows:

1. At least 80 per cent of the inhabitants have been forced to flee those villages;

2. Israel has been able to cut off the Rashaf-Hadatha road and build a new road linking Rashaf to Beit Yahoun within the so-called "security zone", which is virtually tantamount to incorporating Rashaf into the area occupied by Israel and isolating it from the rest of the country.

The Lebanese Government denounces and condemns these latest acts of Israeli aggression, and alerts the international community to the fact that Israel is seeking to extend the zone which it occupies in Lebanese territory, even as it participates in the peace negotiations under way in Washington in the search for a just and lasting settlement to the conflict in the Middle East. The Lebanese Government reserves the right to call on the Security Council to consider ways and means of putting an end to the unwarranted attacks which Israel is constantly launching in southern Lebanon, in the light of the threat which they pose to international peace and security.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Khalil MAKKAWI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative